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The Lebanon in Turmoil, Syria and the Powers in 1860: Book of the Marvels of the Time concerning the Massacres in the Arab Country by Iskander Ibn Ya'qūb Abkārīūs. Translated and annotated and provided with an Introduction and Conclusion by J. F. SCHELTEMA, M.A., Ph.D. (New Haven: Yale University Press. 1920. Pp. 203. \$6.50.)

THE appearance of this volume is peculiarly timely. On September 1, 1920, General Gouraud proclaimed in Beyrout the creation of the new state of Greater Lebanon, including that city and other coast-towns, with autonomous administration under the French mandate. The story of Iskander Abcarius deals with one chapter in the history of the Lebanon which terminated with the French occupation of 1860-1861. In a concluding paper Dr. Scheltema brings the history of the Lebanon down to the early days of the Armistice. He describes the Charter of the Lebanon, drawn up by the International Commission in 1861 (emended in 1864) by which the Mountain was recognized as an autonomous state under Turkish suzerainty, but with a Christian governor under the protection of the Powers. He shows how this constitution was violated during the Great War by the appointment of Moslem Turks to the position of governor and how Turkish rule came to an end with the Entente occupation of Syria in October, 1918.

Iskander Abcarius, the Armenian writer of the Arabic manuscript, here translated by Dr. Scheltema, was born in Beyrout, where for some time he acted as vice-consul for the United States of America. Writing as a Christian he dwells on the undoubted atrocities of the Druzes, in their war against the Maronites, but Dr. Scheltema points out in his foreword that "whoever reads between the lines . . . will become convinced of the underlying verity that the calamity which in 1860 befell the Christians of the Lebanon, and in particular the Maronites, was largely, if not wholly, of their own making". This conclusion is amply sustained by Colonel Churchill in his book, *The Druses and the Maronites*. He winds up his account of the first war in 1841—a war of which the conflicts of 1845 and 1860 were but the continuation—with this statement: "Thus ended a conflict, induced in the first instance by the grasping ambition and bigoted intolerance of the Maronite Patriarch, engaged in by the Druses with all the desperation of a people struggling for their nationality, and lashed into fury by the Turks." The importance of this passage appears to have been overlooked by Dr. Scheltema, who regards Churchill as having a bias in favor of the Christians. Colonel Churchill had intimate relations with both parties. He married the daughter of a Maronite emir, and, as he told the father of the reviewer, he planned the campaign for the Druzes in which they took the Christian town of Zahleh! It was the savagery of the Druzes in the war of 1860 that naturally awoke his sympathy for their victims.

The reviewer finds a certain bias in the florid narrative of Abcarius,

notwithstanding his declaration that he had been particular in the selection of his material, "endeavoring to sift it carefully". His allusions to the treatment of women by the Druzes are not in harmony with their theory of warfare, nor, according to American residents in the Lebanon at the time of the massacres, with their practice. We may add that Dr. Scheltema in his extended introduction rightly emphasizes the baleful influence of foreign interference in the affairs of the Lebanon—the French acting as patrons of the Maronites; the British, of the Druzes.

In his foreword the editor and translator apologizes "for not utilizing some documents which the war kept out of our reach". This apology is significant of the editor's meticulous scholarship, so abundantly illustrated in a wealth of foot-notes, in which geographical, historical, and political allusions are interpreted by reference to diplomatic correspondence; to reports in the press, contemporary with the events; to periodical magazines; to accounts of travellers, etc., etc. This valuable contribution to scholarship made by Dr. Scheltema lacks nothing but an index.

FREDERICK JONES BLISS.

A Monograph on Plebiscites, with a Collection of Official Documents. By SARAH WAMBAUGH. [Publications of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Division of International Law.] (New York: Oxford University Press. 1920. Pp. xxxv, 1088. \$5.00.)

MISS WAMBAUGH's timely and painstaking study of certain formal expressions of self-determination involving changes of sovereignty is an exceedingly valuable addition to the stock of definitely sifted and organized historical material available for a better informed and perhaps more reasonable disposition of international problems. Her work presents a brief historical summary of the theory and practice of plebiscites, followed by a detailed examination of the plebiscites of the French Revolutionary period—Avignon and the Comtat Venaissin (1791), Savoy (1792), Nice, the Belgian communes, the Rhine valley (1793), Mülhausen and Geneva (1798), those of the period 1814–1870 in Italy (1848–1870), in Moldavia and Wallachia (1857), in the Ionian islands (1863), in the islands of St. Thomas and St. John (1868), the proposals connected with the Schleswig question from 1848, and finally those of the period from 1871 to 1914 in St. Bartholomew (West Indies, 1877), the proposals associated with the Tacna-Arica question from 1883, and in the separation of Sweden and Norway (1905). Some thousand pages of documentary evidence offer substantial justification for the conclusions presented in the text of the monograph.

A somewhat more elaborate and comprehensive consideration of the theory of self-determination might well have prefaced so considerable an undertaking. Admirable as the introductory summary is, it is too